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Jane E. Norton
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NORTON LAUNCHES OPERATION CHILD CARE

Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton Kicks off Statewide Volunteer Effort Supporting our Troops

(DENVER) – Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton today launched Colorado Operation Child Care.

“Coloradans are compassionate people, they are always looking for ways in which they can help their neighbors,” said Norton. “Operation Child Care is just another example of the Colorado spirit lending a hand to our soldiers who defend our daily liberties and their families who are awaiting their return.”

Operation Child Care is part of a national, voluntary effort to team local child care providers with National Guard and Reserve military personnel returning for two weeks of rest and recuperation leave from Iraq and Afghanistan. The volunteer child care program will provide a few hours of child care to military personnel so that they can spend time with their spouses, take care of personal business, or participate in military activities.

So far, 218 child care providers around the state have volunteered their services to support the “citizen soldiers” from Colorado. There has been an especially overwhelming show of support from child care providers in rural areas.

“The response from our community has been wonderful,” said Norton. “Coloradans are looking for ways to show their appreciation for the service to our nation that these men and women give and this is one small way to say a heartfelt thank you.”

This effort is supported in conjunction with the Colorado Office of Resource & Referral Agencies, (CORRA) the Colorado Child Care Association, the Colorado Association of Family Child Care and the United States National Guard. Operation Child care was designed for National Guard and Reserve personnel because they do not typically have access to the military family support programs provided to active duty personnel.

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National Guard and Reserve members with valid military identification and leave orders can access this service through the Nation's Network of Child Care Resource and Referral (NACCRRA) Child Care Aware hotline (800) 424-2246 or by visiting the Web site at www.ChildCareAware.org. CORRA will then link the National Guard or Reserve member to participating child care providers.

"Today we reflect on the sacrifices of all those who have put on the uniform to serve in the United States military. In respect and recognition of the contributions our service men and women and their families have made to the cause of peace and freedom, we say thank you," said Norton.

Any child care provider interested in volunteering is welcome and encouraged to contact the Colorado Office of Resource and Referral Agencies, Inc. (CORRA) at (303) 290-9088 or visit the Web site at www.corra.org. All child care providers who volunteer their time for Operation Child Care will receive official national recognition, as well as a certificate of appreciation from the Lt. Governor, a U.S. and Colorado flag lapel pin and an Operation Child Care decal.

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